

In the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method of stirring a solution for contacting a selective binding substance immobilized on a surface of a carrier with a solution containing an analyte substance reactive with the selective binding substance, comprising the steps of:

adding fine particles or air bubbles into the solution,

sealing the fine particles or air bubbles in the solution with a seal and the carrier, and

stirring the solution by moving the fine particles or air bubbles sealed in the solution ~~without allowing contact thereof with the selective binding substance-immobilized surface~~ by using the carrier and/or a container which have structures such that the fine particles or air bubbles do not contact the selective binding substance-immobilized surface.

2.-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the carrier has a convex-concave ~~surface~~ structure and the selective binding substance is immobilized on the top face of the convexes.

5. (Previously Presented) A method of stirring a solution for contacting a selective binding substance immobilized on a top face of convexes of a carrier with a solution containing an analyte substance reactive with the selective binding substance, comprising the steps of:

adding fine particles or air bubbles into the solution containing the analyte substance,

sealing the fine particles or air bubbles in the solution with a seal and the carrier, and

moving the fine particles or air bubbles sealed in the solution.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1 or 5, wherein the solution is stirred by movement of the fine particles.

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1 or 5, wherein the solution is in a container.

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 7, wherein the solution is stirred by movement of the fine particles and a minimum width of the fine particles is greater than a minimum distance between the selective binding substance-immobilized surface and the container.

9. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1 or 5, wherein the solution is stirred by movement of the fine particles, the carrier has a convex-concave surface, the selective binding

substance is immobilized on the top face of the convexes of the carrier, and the fine particles move in a concave area.

10. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1 or 5, wherein the carrier has a flat area and a convex-concave area, the selective binding substance is immobilized on a top face of the convexes of the carrier, the height of the top face of the convexes is almost the same, and the difference in height between a flat area and the top face of the convexes is 50 μm or less.

11. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 6, wherein the fine particles are forced to move by gravity, magnetic force, vibration of carrier, or a combination thereof.

12. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 9, wherein a maximum width of the fine particles is 10 μm or more and less than the difference in height between the top face of convexes and the concave area.

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1 or 5, wherein the selective binding substance is a nucleic acid.

14. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1 or 5, wherein the selective binding substance reacts with the analyte substance.

15. (New) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the container for the solution has a convex-concave structure and the selective binding substance is immobilized under the container convexes.